

BTG - Bridging the Gap
Poplar Elementary—Prime Applicant District

Partner Districts: Poplar High School, Brockton Elementary, Brockton High School, Savage Elementary, Scobey K-12, and Medicine Lake K-12

University Mentor(s): MSU-Bozeman Teacher Education Program—Dr. Joan Cook

Mentor(s) at Large: Libby Solberg

Internal Evaluator: Dr. Art Bangert—MSU Bozeman

Abstract: Bridging the Gap utilizes the Intel Teach to the Future professional development framework to impact nearly 2500 students in six high speed schools in remote northeastern Montana. The focus of this model is not merely the use of software and hardware, it is about pedagogy and integration of technology for teacher and student use to meet standards. Within this professional learning culture participant teachers create unit plans in the subject and grade level they teach which are aligned to standards using a proven set of curriculum guides. The reporting and assessment tools included provide documentation for ongoing assessment of both teaching practices and learner outcomes.

The incorporation of any new tool or technology into the classroom is only successful as the teaching practice in which it is rooted. Acknowledging that many of our teachers are uncomfortable with basic computing and lack confidence using technology in their classrooms, Bridging the Gap provides a 2-year participation cycle. The first year utilizes a demonstrated skill-building professional development curriculum designed to move teachers from basic technology skills to subject-specific integration. The second year those same teachers are mentored through the Intel Teach to the Future program, enabling them to develop exemplary technology infused unit plans aligned to standards. This proven path for successful implementation generated technology leaders within each district while creating dynamic, independent classroom teachers.